



DISCIPLE MAKER INDEX SURVEY

Discover what makes the people of Little Flower parish unique in our journey of faith.



Little Flower at a Glance

394

Total number of surveys completed, representing 158% of the parish*

35 and under

Age range of 18% of individuals who completed the DMI

33%

Have School Aged Children, of which 80% all go to Catholic School

44%

20+ years Parish Membership Duration

377 / 1,100

Total number of registered households/Catholics at our parish

*250 reported as the average Sunday mass going parishioners

What is the DMI?

This past Spring, parishioners here at Little Flower and across the Archdiocese of St. Louis were invited to share their thoughts, reflect on their spiritual growth as well as provide parish leadership with invaluable insight regarding their parish's strengths and opportunities through a survey, the Disciple Maker Index (DMI). The DMI survey is designed to capture information regarding attitudes and beliefs, relationship and satisfaction, participation, and demographics using a quantitative tool that can be used for benchmarking and trending information.



Based on the average October Sunday Mass count from 2015-2021, about 60% of Mass-going Catholics participated in the DMI Survey. This is above the national average for other dioceses who have taken the DMI nationwide. Scan here to see the rest of the archdiocesan-wide results!

Our Community

This past spring our parish had the opportunity to participate in the Disciple Maker Index (DMI) survey. More than 394 confirmed individuals in our parish - or about 36 percent of parishioners - took the time to give their feedback. The national participation average is between 7-10 percent, so this puts Little Flower above the national average.

The Disciple Maker Index contained 75-questions designed to provide an opportunity for parishioners to reflect on their individual spiritual growth and overall parish effectiveness.



ALL THINGS NEW
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE



"The theme I am pushing is moving from speculation to collaboration."

Father Chris Martin (19 July 2022 meeting)



KEY FINDINGS

Little Flower helps people grow closer to Jesus

Key Observations:

Incredible participation for a “small parish” with 158% participation of reported weekend attendance. Overall, 73% indicated they “agreed” the parish was an aid to their spiritual growth. 85% would recommend the parish and 92% would recommend the parish Catholic school.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Key Finding:

Overall, 73% indicated they “agreed” the parish was an aid to their spiritual growth, 76% “agreed” the parish prepared them for the sacraments.

*Key Parish Leader
Team Action Step:
Research/discuss ways
parishes in our
planning area and
adjacent planning
areas have fostered
spiritual growth.*

COMMUNITY

Key Finding:

Overall, 75% indicated they “agreed” the parish provides opportunities to serve those in need, 84% “agreed” information about the parish was easy to find.

*Key Parish Leader
Team Action Step:
Research ways
parishes in our
planning area and
adjacent planning
areas serve those in
need.*

EDUCATION

Key Finding:

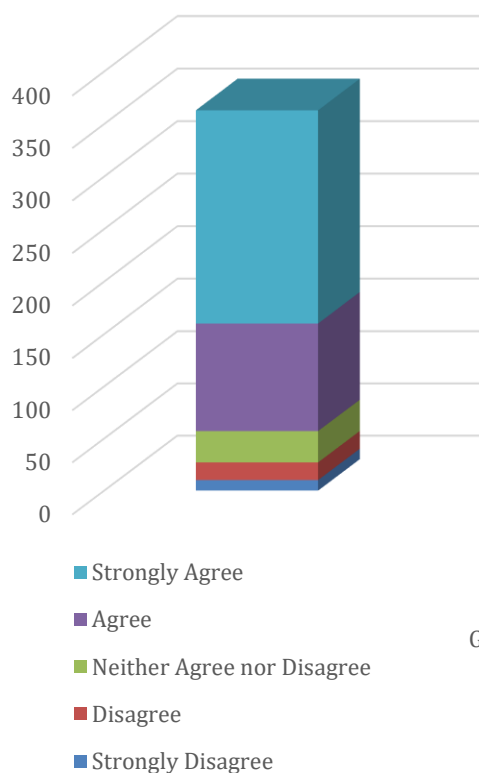
Overall, 77% indicated they “agreed” they had parish support to grow their child(ren) as a disciple of Jesus Christ, 92% would recommend the parish Catholic school.

*Key Parish Leader
Team Action Step:
Research ways other
parishes engage
youth, young adults
and young families for
discipleship.*



KEY STATS

I would recommend my parish to a friend:



Parish Demographics:

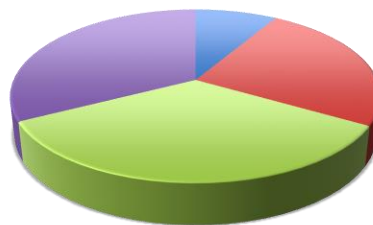
- 23% of the resident population is Catholic which is above the archdiocesan average of 18%.

Parish Financial:

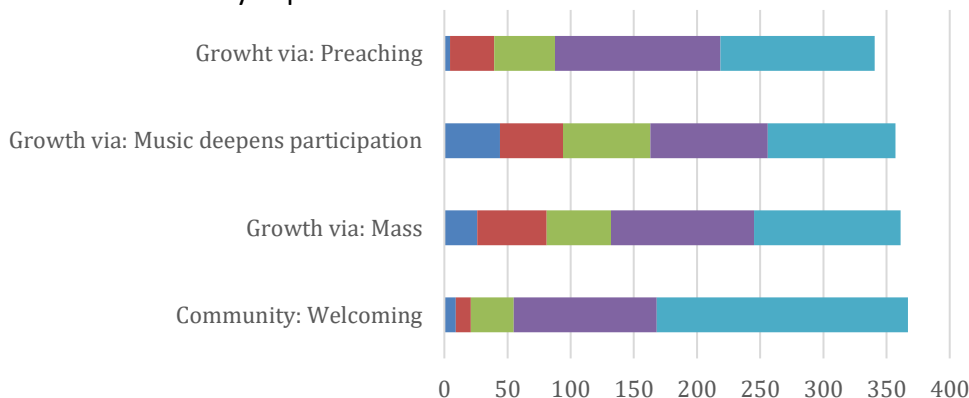
- Offertory had been stable but declined the last three years.
- Parish investment in the school has been significantly higher each year.
- Parish total revenue has generally equaled total expense, thus reserves have been stable benefiting from a large 2018 bequest.

Catholic Journey:

- I consider myself Catholic, though faith is not a significant part of my life
- I practice my Catholic faith, but do not know Jesus personally like a friend
- I have personally encountered Jesus Christ and am growing as a disciple
- My relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important relationship in my life



Sunday Experience:



Parish Sacramental:

- Mass attendance % of capacity has been well below the archdiocesan average of 33% and 25%. This is due primarily to large church capacity (seats 700).
- Pre-COVID Mass attendance % of parishioners at Mass on the weekend was 36-44%, well above the archdiocesan average of 27-29%.
- The parish has a young demographic as baptisms have been strong relative to the small size of the parish.



I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be His people and God Himself will always be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain, the old order has passed away." The one who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Then He said, "Write these words down, for they are trustworthy and true." (Revelation 21:3-5)



Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know from our last bulletin insert, I have been meeting with our Key Parish Leader team to review the information provided by the Archdiocese with regard to our parish workbook (information about the parish and planning area) and DMI data in order to respond to the Parish Feedback Form. As part of the goals from the May webinars we have shared some of the DMI results in this bulletin.

Here are some questions the team answered in the Parish Feedback Form:

What other items emerged as potential strengths for your parish(es)?

Our Parish is an integral part of the neighborhood, lending its beauty and stability – affecting the community, our financial health is strong. In addition, the condition of buildings is good.

What other items emerged as potential opportunities for growth?

Opportunities include: reinvigorating our Catholic teachings via lecture series with prominent speakers, thereby creating a reputation for solid Catholic doctrine; getting younger people involved; encouraging more volunteers participating in ministries (via awareness of opportunities).

What are some areas that you want to further explore?

The beauty of the Latin Mass and other opportunities to serve. What are people looking for? Also, follow up on involvement of those that marked neither agree nor disagree. Other areas were Conversations: sharing story of Jesus and sharing a personal story, where both were relatively high in 'neither agree nor disagree'. Many people do not know how to do this or may need guidance to enable them to be comfortable doing this (may be through increased opportunities for small intimate group sessions to share).

As noted, DMI results have been reviewed and considered among other information to draw conclusions about the current state of the parish and parish life. Next steps are laid out to the right on this page, so please stay tuned for more opportunities to engage (in particular we will ask you to consider two key questions).

If you have any questions with regard to the information shared please reach out to any of our key parish leaders on the team – Pat Dolan, John Gibbons, Ramona Jacknewitz, Jane & Denny McCabe, Chris Saykes; Advisors: Albert Anglin, Kevin Sargent and Alyssa Duarte-Reinagel (primary POC)

Yours in Christ,
Father Lawrence Herzog
Pastor, Little Flower Catholic Church

NEXT STEPS

- The Key Parish Leader team will continue to meet to support
 - Gathering of feedback from parishioners on two key questions (by August 31) – *see inset below*
 - Parish listening sessions (Fall 2022)
 - Collaboration sessions for Planning Area #6 – we will reach out to adjacent planning area #4 which we normally clustered with and border
- Winter 2022: Discernment and refinement of models
- Final Decisions should be completed by Pentecost, 28 May 2023
- Implementation will take place Fall 2023 to 2026

QUESTIONS FOR PARISHIONERS

1. What do you think are the top priorities for evangelization in your parish that should be invested in moving forward? (i.e. youth ministry, family ministry, young adult ministry, marriage ministry etc...)
2. What do you think are the top priorities/opportunities for your parish to provide outreach in your community? (i.e. food pantry, service projects, St. Vincent de Paul etc...)